

AUTHORIZING THE RECONSTRUCTION, ENLARGEMENT,
AND EXTENSION OF THE BRIDGE ACROSS THE MISSIS-
SIPPI RIVER AT OR NEAR ROCK ISLAND, ILL.

JUNE 26, 1956.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BLATNIK, from the Committee on Public Welfare, submitted the
following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 2091]

The Committee on Public Works, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2091) authorizing the reconstruction, enlargement, and extension of the bridge across the Mississippi River at or near Rock Island, Ill., having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

The purpose of S. 2091 is to amend the act approved March 18, 1938 (52 Stat. 110), which authorized the city of Rock Island, Ill., to construct, maintain, and operate a toll bridge across the Mississippi River at or near Rock Island, by authorizing the reconstruction, enlargement, and extension of this bridge and its approaches, including the altering, widening, laying out, opening, or construction of streets to provide adequate approaches to the bridge; to provide for adjustment of tolls to cover the cost of such reconstruction work within a period of not to exceed 30 years from the date of its completion; and upon amortization of the proposed improvements to maintain and operate the bridge free of tolls.

The act of March 18, 1938, authorized the city of Rock Island, Ill., to construct, maintain, and operate a toll bridge across the Mississippi River from Rock Island, Ill., to Davenport, Iowa, in accordance with the provisions of an "Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters," approved March 23, 1906.

S. 2091 would amend the above-mentioned act by authorizing the city of Rock Island, Ill., subject to prior approval of plans by the Chief of Engineers and the Secretary of the Army, to reconstruct and

enlarge such bridge and to reconstruct, enlarge, and extend the approaches to such bridge. The costs of the bridge and approaches would be amortized by toll revenues within a period not to exceed 30 years from the completion of the reconstruction, and thereafter the bridge would be maintained and operated free of tolls.

GENERAL STATEMENT

The Rock Island bridge was completed in 1940 and since that time the average daily traffic over the bridge has increased from 4,000 to 12,000 vehicles per day. The bridge is a four-lane roadway and can accommodate a large volume of traffic, but it is estimated that its present approaches have only one-third to one-fourth the capacity of the bridge. Approximately 10 percent of the vehicles using the bridge are large trucks which are channeled through the business areas.

The metropolitan area of Rock Island and Moline, Ill., Davenport, Iowa, and adjacent cities, has a total population of about 200,000. The area is highly industrialized, with an estimated 126 industries with 29,000 employees on the Illinois side, 179 industries with 15,000 employees on the Iowa side, and 6,000 employees at the Rock Island Arsenal located on an island in the river. Being one metropolitan area, the traffic across the river produced by this employment is extremely heavy on the available bridges.

Approximately eight blocks east of the Rock Island bridge is a free Government bridge connecting Rock Island and Davenport by way of the Rock Island Arsenal. Practically all of the employees at the arsenal travel to and from their homes by motor vehicles over the free bridge. The present average flow over this bridge is 15,000 to 18,000 vehicles per day. This traffic is impeded by the opening of the bridge to permit boats to pass, which averages about 125 openings monthly.

Based on present revenue, the Rock Island bridge is expected to be toll free in 1959. The committee has been advised that city authorities believe that refinancing and extending the small toll of 10 cents per passenger vehicle is a practicable, equitable, and feasible method of improving the approaches to the bridge. They estimate that under this procedure the proposed improvements will be completely paid for and the bridge made toll free by about 1970.

The committee believes that S. 2091 should be enacted so that proper steps can be taken to permit the Rock Island bridge to be utilized to its designed capacity to relieve the existing and anticipated traffic conditions. The approaches to the bridge appear to be the key to the problem, and unless corrected to permit a free flow of traffic across the river, the economy of the area will be adversely affected and the movement of highway traffic will be impaired. Adequate approaches to the bridge, with attendant improvement of access roads and streets, will afford safe and rapid approach to the bridge and increase its utility; prevent congestion and overflow of traffic and trucks in the downtown city area; and handle the heavy increase in traffic expected from the nearby terminus of the Illinois toll road East-West Highway and the construction of a new bridge over Rock River.

The committee has been informed that the Secretary of the Army, the Secretary of Commerce, and the Director of the Bureau of the Budget have offered no objection to the enactment of this legislation.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with clause 3 of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law proposed by the bill are shown in parallel columns as follows:

PUBLIC LAW 446, 75TH CONGRESS, 3D SESSION

AN ACT Authorizing the city of Rock Island, Illinois, or its assigns, to construct, maintain, and operate a toll bridge across the Mississippi River at or near Rock Island, Illinois, and to a place at or near the city of Davenport, Iowa

EXISTING LAW

That in order to promote interstate commerce, improve the postal service, and provide for military and other purposes, the city of Rock Island, Illinois, or its assigns be, and is hereby, authorized to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Mississippi River, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, at or near Rock Island, Illinois, and to a place at or near Davenport, Iowa, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters", approved March 23, 1906, and subject to the conditions and limitations contained in this Act.

SEC. 2. There is hereby conferred upon the city of Rock Island, Illinois, or its assigns, all such rights and powers to enter upon lands and to acquire, condemn, occupy, possess, and use real estate and other property needed for the location, construction, maintenance, and operation of such bridge and its approaches as are possessed by railroad corporations for railroad purposes or by bridge corporations for bridge purposes in the State in which such real estate or other property is situated, upon making just compensation therefor, to be ascertained and paid according to the laws of such State, and the proceedings therefor shall be the same as in the condemnation or expro-

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That (a) in order to promote interstate commerce, improve the postal service, and provide for military and other purposes, the city of Rock Island, Illinois, or its assigns be, and is hereby, authorized to construct, maintain, and operate a bridge and approaches thereto across the Mississippi River, at a point suitable to the interests of navigation, at or near Rock Island, Illinois, and to a place at or near Davenport, Iowa, in accordance with the provisions of the Act entitled "An Act to regulate the construction of bridges over navigable waters", approved March 23, 1906, and subject to the conditions and limitations contained in this Act.

(b) The city of Rock Island, Illinois, or any State or political subdivision thereof which may have acquired the bridge constructed pursuant to the subsection (a) of this section, is hereby authorized, subject to the prior approval of the plans by the Chief of Engineers and the Secretary of the Army, to reconstruct and enlarge such bridge and to reconstruct, enlarge, and extend the approaches to such bridge, including, but not limiting the generality of the foregoing, the altering, widening, laying out, opening, or constructing of any streets, avenues, or boulevards within or without any municipality deemed necessary by said city, or any State, public agency, or

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priation of property for public purposes in such State.

SEC. 3. The city of Rock Island, Illinois, or its assigns, is hereby authorized to fix and charge tolls for transit over such bridge, and the rates of toll so fixed shall be the legal rates until changed by the Secretary of War under the authority contained in the Act of March 23, 1906.

SEC. 4. In fixing the rates of toll to be charged for the use of such bridge the same shall be so adjusted as to provide a fund sufficient to pay for the reasonable cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating the bridge and its approaches under economical management, and to provide a sinking fund sufficient to amortize the cost of such bridge and its approaches, including reasonable interest and financing cost, as soon as possible, under reasonable charges, but within a period of not to exceed thirty years from the completion thereof. After a sinking fund sufficient for such amortization shall have been so provided, such bridge shall thereafter be maintained and operated free of tolls. An accurate record of the cost of the bridge and its approaches; the expenditures for maintaining, repairing, and operating the same; and of the daily tolls collected shall be kept and shall be available for the information of all persons interested.

SEC. 5. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

NEW LANGUAGE

political subdivision that may take over or acquire said bridge in order to provide adequate traffic regulations and approach or approaches to the said bridge: *Provided*, That such approaches shall include only those necessary portions of streets, avenues, and boulevards which are directly connected with the bridge, or which are located immediately adjacent thereto, and whose principal use is to provide access to the bridge.

SEC. 2. There is hereby conferred upon the city of Rock Island, Illinois, or its assigns, all such rights and powers to enter upon lands and to acquire, condemn, occupy, possess, and use real estate and other property needed for the location, construction, maintenance, and operation of such bridge and its approaches (including reconstructing, enlarging, and extending such bridge and its approaches) as are possessed by railroad corporations for railroad purposes or by bridge corporations for bridge purposes in the State in which such real estate or other property is situated, upon making just compensation therefor, to be ascertained and paid according to the laws of such State, and the proceedings therefor shall be the same as in the condemnation or expropriation of property for public purposes in such State.

SEC. 3. The city of Rock Island, Illinois, or its assigns, is hereby authorized to fix and charge tolls for transit over such bridge, and the rates of toll so fixed shall be the legal rates until changed by the Secretary of War under the authority contained in the Act of March 23, 1906.

EXISTING LAW

NEW LANGUAGE

SEC. 4. In fixing the rates of toll to be charged for the use of such bridge the same shall be so adjusted as to provide a fund sufficient to pay for the reasonable cost of maintaining, repairing, and operating the bridge and its approaches (including the reasonable cost of reconstructing, enlarging, and extending such bridge and its approaches) under economical management, and to provide a sinking fund sufficient to amortize the cost of such bridge and its approaches, including reasonable interest and financing cost, as soon as possible, under reasonable charges, but within a period of not to exceed thirty years from the completion of the reconstruction, enlargement, and extension of such bridge and its approaches as provided in subsection (b) of the first section of this Act. After a sinking fund sufficient for such amortization shall have been so provided, such bridge shall thereafter be maintained and operated free of tolls in accordance with such arrangement as may be agreed upon by the city of Rock Island, Illinois, or its assigns, and the State highway departments or other appropriate agencies of the States of Iowa and Illinois. An accurate record of the cost of the bridge and its approaches; the expenditures for maintaining, repairing, and operating the same; the expenditures for reconstructing, enlarging, and extending the same; and all of the daily tolls collected shall be available for the information of all persons interested.

SEC. 5. The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is hereby expressly reserved.

